

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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### Organization

1. The headquarters of Dalstroy is located in a new building in Magadan (N 59-34, E150-48).<sup>1</sup> Also, there is a section of Dalstroy in Ust Omchuk (N61-09, E149-38), where there is a large school, which looks almost like a small town by itself, and a big garrison, judging from the many soldiers seen on the streets. 25X1
2. The area of Dalstroy corresponds to the Kolyma region. 25X1  

The region of Kolyma

is subdivided into three areas,

These areas are: 25X1

  - a. The Northern Directorate (Severnoye upravleniye), which comprises Indigirka and Lower Kolyma (nizhnaya Kolyma).
  - b. The Northeastern Directorate (Severno-vostochnoye upravleniye).
  - c. The Central Tenkin Directorate (Tsentralnoye tenkinskoye upravleniye). Under this directorate there are mostly female prisoners.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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3. All the prison camps and industrial installations in the area are under Dalstroy. [redacted] all the camps in the region are under the Directorate of the Northeastern Corrective Labor Camps (Upravleniye severo-vostochnykh ispravitelnykh trudovykh lagerey- Usvitlag). [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1
- a. Coastal camps (Beregovyye lageri - Berlag). Berlag is in charge of all political prisoners. The Berlag camps are the strictest. The doors of the barracks are locked at night, and the windows are barred. Political prisoners can never leave the camp, except under guard.
  - b. Southwestern camps (Yugo-zapadnyye lageri - Yuzlag). These camps are for political prisoners with light sentences and for criminals with high sentences.
  - c. Northern camps (Severnnyye lageri - Sevlag). These camps are mostly for criminals. Such prisoners, if the camp administration permits, may go to work without being under guard.
  - d. Indigirka camps (Indirskiye lageri - Indirlag). [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted]

Labor Force

4. [redacted] the total labor force in Dalstroy is 900,000 to a million. 25X1  
This number includes all prison labor, but not the free workers. The number of free workers is not significant. Many women are also included in the total labor force. Most of the women are political prisoners and come largely from the Ukraine and the Baltic countries. Approximately 3,000 women work in two camps, at Vakhanka (N61-21, EL49-18) and Karmen (sic), about five kilometers from Matrosova. In Kumkhan (Kumkhanzhe), 500 km from Magadan, the workers in the central administration are almost exclusively women. The few men in this area work in special capacities, e.g., mechanics, carpenters, etc. In Magadan and its environs, there are more than 10,000 women workers.

Living Conditions

5. Installations in Kolyma all have sufficient food stores for the winter, which begins in September. Very rarely, political prisoners receive "incentive" food or pay from Dalstroy. The prisoners are just told that Dalstroy sent the items. At one time, a brigade of 58 men received 500 rubles to be distributed among them. Items received at other times included packages of sardines, sugar, tea, flour, and other similar articles. Also, many prisoners received mail in camp.

Construction

6. There is a great deal of mechanization and modernization taking place in the Kolyma area. The main new construction [redacted] is the building of a new city, which eventually is to supplant Magadan as the center of the Kolyma region. The city has no name yet. It is referred to as Km 223, since it is 223 km from Magadan and about 10 km south of Butugychak (N 61-19, E 149-11) (sic). In 1951, when construction was started, there was a great deal of propaganda about it in the Soviet press, which extolled the genius of Soviet engineers. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] a large prison camp which had over 2,000 inmates. The camp was located one-half kilometer east of the main highway north of Magadan. Prisoners with special skills were moved there. 25X1

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Transportation

7. Magadan is the only port of entry into Dalstroy. [ ] it is possible to travel into Dalstroy only via the main highway from Magadan or by air. From the Kolyma area to Yakutsk or the Lena Valley there is no overland connection, except by trails which can be covered by sled. [ ] all those they knew or had heard about, came into the Dalstroy area by the port of Magadan and left it the same way.

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8. [ ] only narrow-gauge railroads in the Kolyma region. One such railroad goes about 70 km north of Magadan. There are a few smaller railroads around Magadan linking various warehouses. The locomotives of these small trains are called gugushka (sic). Outside of the Magadan area, [ ] a railroad from Elgen Ugol (N 62-54, E 151-46) to Ust Taskan (N 62-40, E 150-52). They heard, however, that a railroad was to be built from Magadan along the shore south to Okhotsk (N 59-23, E 143-18). They thought that it was to be completed by 1957.

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9. There is an airfield in Ust Omchuk, [ ] these planes were transporting various metals, cassiterite (kastrit) and cobalt (kobalt), from Seymchan (N 62-53, E 152-26) to Magadan.

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Miscellaneous Information on Area

10. There is a uranium mining camp at Katsugan, eight kilometers from Butugychak, which is about ten kilometers east of the main highway. The color of the ore is dark brown. [ ] the work at this camp was very hard and that prisoners, most of whom were sick with silicosis and tuberculosis, were sent away from it after about three years. [ ] there was a small processing factory at Katsugan.

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11. There is a Chukotstroy north of Dalstroy. [ ] the Soviets feared that, because of the war in Korea, prisoners might escape across the Bering Strait. It was late in the season; the sea was frozen, and the Soviets used bombers and ice breakers to force a passage for the ship. Food ran out, and all the prisoners were exhausted when they finally reached Magadan.

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12. In July or August 1951, about 120 specially selected prisoners came from the Ural region to Magadan. They were all required to sign a paper stating that they would keep everything concerning their mission secret. They were kept apart in Magadan for several months, apparently while special permission from Moscow was awaited. When it arrived, 60 prisoners were sent to Belovo, about 80 km north of Butugychak and approximately 20 km west of the main highway. The remaining 60 prisoners were sent elsewhere.

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